

Message Text

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43

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-10 ISO-00 NEAE-00 CCO-00 SSO-00

NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 OC-05 SY-05 A-01 OPR-02 PER-01

FSI-01 FBO-02 SCCT-01 AID-05 DHA-02 OMB-01 SCS-03

SCA-01 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 /103 W

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O 301535Z OCT 75

FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6946

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY ATHENS PRIORITY

USINT BAGHDAD UNN

AMEMBASSY CAIRO PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS PRIORITY

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY JIDDA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMCONSUL STUTTGART

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV PRIORITY

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON

COMSIXTHFLT

CTF SIX ZERO

CTF SIX ONE

CTF SIX TWO

CTG SIX ZERO PT TWO

FOSIF ROTA SPAIN

FICEURLANT NORFOLK VA

DIA WASHDC

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CIA WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L BEIRUT 13516

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, PINT, LE

SUBJECT: KARAME ATTEMPTING ANOTHER CEASEFIRE

REF: BEIRUT 13430 (29 OCT 75 1410Z)

1. YET ANOTHER CEASEFIRE WAS PUT TOGETHER FOLLOWING EXTENSIVE CONSULTATIONS BY PREMIER KARAME LATE YESTERDAY, OCT 29. HE CONSULTED PARTICULARLY WITH PALESTINIAN AND LEFTIST LEADERS, AFTER FIRST GETTING ASSURANCES FROM KATAEB THAT THEY WOULD ABIDE BY CEASEFIRE. IT WAS ANNOUNCED 0030 HOURS OCT 30 AND CONTAINED A LIST OF SPECIFIC TERMS INCLUDING WITHDRAWAL OF ARMED MEN FROM BARRICADES AND THEIR REPLACEMENT BY INTERNAL SECURITY FORCES, UNCONDITIONAL RELEASE OF PEOPLE KIDNAPPED, AND STOPPING SNIPER ACTIVITY. A LATE-NIGHT MEETING OF JOINT LEBANESE-PALESTINAIN CEASEFIRE COMMITTEE (WORKING-LEVEL GROUP THAT HAS MET STEADILY TO MONITOR CEASEFIRES WITH LITTLE SUCCESS FOR LAST SEVERAL WEEKS) ARRANGED FURTHER DETAILS OF CEASEFIRE AND ANNOUNCED IT WOULD REALLY START AS OF 0900 HOURS OCT 30.

2. KARAME IS SAID TO HAVE PUT HIS JOB ON THE LINE IN NEGOTIATING THIS CEASEFIRE AND WAS ON POINT OF RESIGNING AT ONE STAGE. HE WAS TALKED OUT OF IT, AS IN SIMILAR OCCASIONS IN PAST, THIS TIME REPORTEDLY BY 'ARAFAT AND (THROUGH PHONE CALL FROM DAMASCUS) SYRIAN FONMIN KHADDAM.

3. BEIRUTIS ARE TAKING THIS CEASEFIRE WITH CONSIDERABLE DOSE OF SALT. THERE IS LITTLE MOVEMENT ON STREETS AS OF MIDDAY OCT 30. CLASHES ARE SIGNIFICANTLY LESS SEVERE THAN YESTERDAY BUT SHOOTING IS AUDIBLE AND TENSIONS ARE RAZOR SHARP. FIRING BREAKS OUT SPORADICALLY FROM AROUND INTERNATIONAL HOTELS WHERE KATAEB STILL FACES LEFTISTS AND PALESTINIANS ACROSS BARRICADES. RADIO DECLARED OCT 30 THAT AS OF 1400 HOURS THAT DAY IT WOULD START PINPOINTING BLAME FOR CONTINUED VIOLATIONS OF CEASEFIRE BY NAMING OFFENDING PARTIES. (THIS PRACTICE, WHICH HAS BEEN AVOIDED IN RADIO ANNOUNCEMENTS UP TO NOW, WAS ONE OF PROVISIONS OF NEW CEASEFIRE ARRANGED OCT 29.) WHETHER THIS

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PUBLIC KNUCKE-RAPPING WILL HELP IS DOUBTFUL IN FACE OF HEEDLESS CEASEFIRE VIOLATIONS COMMON IN WEEKS PAST. REDUCED FIGHTING OCT 30 IS HOPEFUL SIGN, BUT NOTHING IN LATEST CEASEFIRE TERMS IS STARTLINGLY DIFFERENT FROM PREVIOUS ABORTED ATTEMPTS.

4. PARLIAMENT TRIED TO CONVENE MORNING OCT 30 BUT AGAIN FAILED TO MUSTER QUORUM. APART FROM GENUINELY INSECURE CONDITIONS AROUND PARLIAMENT BUILDING, MAIN REASON FOR DEPUTIES ABSENCE

SEEMS TO BE RELUCTANCE ON MANY SIDES TO FORCE DEBATE ON GOVT'S
PERFORMANCE IN CRISIS AND CONFIDENCE VOTE THIS COULD LEAD TO.

5. AMERICANS WERE REMOVED SAFELY FROM ST. GEORGES HOTEL
MORNING OCT 30. DEPARTURES OF DEPENDENTS OF OFFICIAL
AMERICANS AND NON-ESSENTIAL MISSION EMPLOYEES PROCEEDING
AT STEADY PACE. AIRPORT FUNCTIONING NORMALLY; NOT SURPRISINGLY,
OUTBOUND PASSENGERS SHARPLY UP. FLIGHTS HEAVILY BOOKED TO
ATHENS, CAIRO, AND AMMAN, BUT BOOKINGS OPEN OTHER DESTINA-
TIONS.
GODLEY

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